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## PRISON REFORM

prophet; not one who foretells events, but one who speaks plainly with respect to present home conditions. Out of disordered homes flows our stream of juvenile delinquents. The home has lost its charm for the boy, if it ever had any charm for him. He would rather hobnob with loafers on the street corners or hang around pool halls or wander down back alleys than stay in such a home. To force him to do so makes him incorrigible. In several instances studies have been made of extreme cases of social degeneracy.

"It has been the custom to interest local organizations, such as women's clubs, church committees, welfare leagues, etc., in the boy who is returning home on parole.

"To parole a boy to the home out of which he came is too often like taking him out of a mudhole, cleaning him up, and then throwing him back into the same mudhole."

Respectfully,

H. J. CORWIN, *Parole Agent.*

**Applications for Pardon Refused.**—The pardon board of the state of Louisiana, through Attorney General Pleasant, announced recently it had refused all applications for pardon presented at the three days' session a short time ago.

It gave as its reason for the wholesale refusal of applications the fact that the board of control of the penitentiary was given the right of parole in a law passed at the last session of the legislature and the board believes this body is best fitted to handle the situation.

"When they are pardoned with too much readiness," states the board in its report, "it is possible that the convict will consider pardons are easy to get through influential friends and will run the chance of committing another crime and being freed again either by the grand jury, the petit jury or the board of pardons."

The report of the Pardon Board says:

"The board of pardons felt that there were many of the cases refused which might commend themselves for parole. The last legislature passed a parole law, making the board of control of the state penitentiary the parole board. This board will soon be ready to receive applications for parole. A person who is liberated under the parole law will be required to make certain periodical reports to the sheriff of his parish, and he must continue to be a good citizen during the remainder of the unexpired term of his sentence, otherwise he may be returned to the penitentiary and be compelled to serve out the remainder of the sentence.

"This parole law will have a beneficial effect because of its restraining influence. A person who is forced to be a good citizen while on parole will find that it is to his best interest to live a life free from crime; he will get the habit of being a good citizen and both he and society will benefit therefrom. When they are pardoned with too much readiness and without a sense of justice to society as well as to the unfortunate convict, it is possible that he will consider that pardons are easy to get through influential friends and will run the chance of committing another crime and being freed again either by the grand jury, the petit jury or the board of pardons. It has also been found that a too free exercise of the pardoning power stimulates those who are viciously inclined to the commission of deeds upon which they are intent, as they feel that influence with the powers that be can either keep them out of prison or get them out of prison."

R. H. G.

## PENOLOGY.

**Prison Reform in North Dakota.**—Progress in the management of the penitentiary of North Dakota has been fairly continuous from the early days of whipping post and repression to the present regime of modern methods. The most conspicuous reform in recent times has been the abolition of the harsh military discipline, and the development of a system based simply on the laws of the state, with as much personal and individual direc-